

Appln No. 10/659,019
Amdt. Dated March 17, 2005
Response to Office Action of February 23, 2005

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 to 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 for being indefinite. Examiner has suggested that the term "said contone data to bi-level data" contains no proper antecedent. With respect, Applicant disagrees. Claim 1 defines the feature "contone data" on line 3 of the claim. The claim defines that "compressed page data" includes "contone data" as well as "foreground bi-level data".

Previous line 7 (now line 9) of claim 1 defines the step of "halftoning" which converts "said contone data" to "bi-level color data". In this case, the term "contone data" used on line 9, has a clear antecedent on line 3 as identified above.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parker in view of Shimazaki. The Examiner has indicated the allowability of claims 2 and 12 if written in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 1 to now recite that at least one of the steps recited in claim 2 is performed. Applicant has amended claim 11 to recite the limitations of claim 12. Accordingly, Applicant submits that all claims are now patentable over the cited prior art.

Applicant asserts that this response is fully responsive to the issues raised in the Office Action and that by the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is placed in a condition for allowance. Further consideration of the application is therefore respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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